The Jewish consciousness of a common descent has now weakened. The number of Jews has greatly increased during the past century and there is less inbreeding. Distributed over many countries, the Jews no longer form a single group for purposes of intermarriage; a number of groups have arisen, to some extent closed against each other, and the feeling of unity resulting from consanguinity is being lost. Lastly, marriages between Jews and non-Jews are now common in countries on a high level of culture, and connect the Jews racially with their non-Jewish neighbours, while accentuating the difference between the Jews of countries where mixed marriages are common and of those countries where they are as yet rare. Also the community of fate has lost much of its former meaning, the Jews now living under widely different conditions. Oppression, in its extreme form, which in the past bound the Jews together, hardly exists any longer. But the outburst in Germany, in the spring of 1933, of an unbridled hatred against the Jews and the organized economic war against them under the Nazi regime showed in a glaring manner that their position had remained insecure even in a country where they had enjoyed legal equality for close on a century.

(4) LOOSENING OF FAMILY TIES

The distinguishing features of the

traditional Jewish family life were chastity of man and woman before marriage, matrimonial fidelity on both sides, appreciation of large families, respect of children for their parents, and the boundless love and devotion of parents for their children. Women took no part in public life, but attended to their domestic duties or assisted their husbands in their work. Daughters remained in their parental home till they married, which they usually did before the age of twenty. The husband's great authority over his wife and children was based